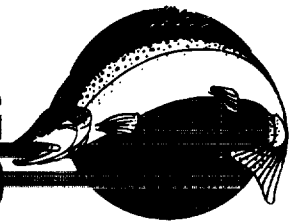


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0602 '98 JAN 21 19:29

Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
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Room 1-23
Rockville MD 20857

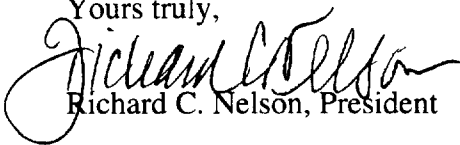
Re: Docket NO. 97N-0217

Subject: Proposal to Increase Availability of Approved Animal Drugs for Minor Species and Minor Uses

Dear FDA,

We support the proposal to increase availability of approved drugs in aquaculture which is listed as a minor species. The aquaculture industry has lagged well behind other farmed animal species in the approval and utilization of medications to treat bacterial infections. The industry has been very careful to pick and choose which drugs provided the greatest potential for effectiveness and safety. The approval process is long and costly. The minor species group needs the support of FDA for providing improved access to select, quality treatments of rare and occasional disease outbreaks.

Yours truly,


Richard C. Nelson, President

97N-0217

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